tion"; "Line and surface integrals"; "Differential equations"; and "Trigonometric series."

Bermant writes in the foreword that the aim is to provide a complete course in mathematical analysis for students of applied science and technology. In this he succeeds admirably. All important properties and theorems (and a large number at that) are carefully explained. Of special advantage for the student is the incorporation of a large number of examples, all of them worked out in detail. The concise and lucid manner in which this book is written should make it a very useful textbook. Many topics seldom found in a work of this scope are discussed. The following example is only one of many that could be cited: In the last chapter, "Trigonometric series," there is not only the usual routine treatment and examples for Fourier series but also discussion of the standpoint of mean convergence, Parseval's theorem, Krylov's method to improve convergence of Fourier series, and the like.

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The Social Sciences

Social Science Research on Latin America. Report and papers of a seminar. Charles Wagley, Ed. Columbia University Press, New York, 1964. xiv + 338 pp. $4.

This book is a product of a seminar on the current status of research into Latin American affairs, held at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford, California) in the summer of 1963. It consists of an introduction and seven chapters dealing with the contribution made by the disciplines of geography, history, anthropology, political science, economics, and sociology. With the exception of the chapter on economics, all of the contributions are by North American scholars, and the emphasis is definitely on research done in this country.

There is in the United States a rather long tradition of scholarly interest in Latin American affairs. Great historians like Prescott, Bolton, and Bancroft wrote extensively on different periods of Central and South American history. The anthropologist Robert Redfield did important field work in Central America, mostly among the contemporary Maya, from the late 1920's to the early 1950's, and published works like *The Folk Culture of Yucatan* which are now classics in the field of ethnography. Wagley himself has done research on Latin American communities for many years. The geographer George McBride did important work, primarily on land tenure problems in Mexico and Chile, during the 1920's and the 1930's. Still, it becomes clear from Wagley's book that the field of Latin American studies has been very much neglected by North American scholars and in the universities. Only lately has considerable attention been paid to the field, largely as a result of the unrest created by the revolution in Cuba and the role of the United States in Latin American economic development programs. Anyone who has taught a course in Latin American social structure knows how hard it is to come by reliable and theoretically interpretable information about a large number of areas, ranging from the factual organization and operations of public administration agencies, social mobility, the composition and modes of operation of political parties, the distribution of power and influence among various social groups in the different countries, the factors that influence investment decisions, and so on.

There are, of course, obvious political and practical reasons why we should try to understand in some detail how Latin American societies operate. But Latin America also provides many challenging problems for the theoretically oriented student of social organization. The intricate systems of rank and status, on community and national levels, should be of great interest to the specialist in social stratification. The detailed study of political decision-making and administrative agencies should provide rich material for theories dealing with the sociological factors behind economic growth and stagnation. It would be easy to mention many more examples. There is some danger that North American research on Latin America will become too much policy-oriented, too much concerned with finding answers to pressing practical problems like how to introduce modern technology, how to promote community development, and so on. Such an approach would be self-defeating in the long run.

This book will be a very useful reference work for those who teach and do research on Latin American problems. The various chapters describe how the concern with Latin American matters has developed within the disciplines represented. They also describe much of the most important work that has been done and contain many suggestions for future research required to fill some of the most blatant gaps in our knowledge. There are, however, important items missing from the bibliographies. Thus, the work done in Chiapas, Mexico, by scholars from Harvard and Stanford —Evon Z. Vogt, A. K. Romney, and others—is not mentioned in the chapter on anthropology, and the studies of communities in Guatemala, by Benjamin D. Paul and Melvin Tumin, are not cited. In the chapter on economic research the work of Edmundo Flores, a leading Mexican agricultural economist who has specialized on the land reform question, is not noted.

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Control Theory

Disciplines and Techniques of Systems Control. John Peschon, Ed. Blaisdell (Ginn), New York, 1964. xii + 547 pp. Illus. $12.50.

The theory of systems control has developed considerably during the past decade. Although there is no sharp distinction between the various aspects of control theory, more sophisticated and specialized mathematical techniques are being used; communication has thus become difficult between specialists in otherwise closely related fields. One may distinguish three major branches that stem from control theory: optimization of stochastic systems, nonlinear systems, and optimization of deterministic systems. This division is apparent in *Disciplines and Techniques of System Control*, edited by Peschon. Other areas of research where techniques are highly specialized, such as sampled data systems, or which are only now being investigated, such as learning systems, are not covered in the book.